

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated February 17, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections.

In response to the objections to the specification, the title has been amended and the heading appearing on page 2, line 10, has been corrected.

Claims 4, 5, 10, 12 and 14 were identified as containing allowable subject matter, and all of the other pending claims were rejected on the basis of the cited prior art references. In response thereto, claims 4 and 5 have been rewritten in independent form, and claims 10, 12 and 14 are presented in independent form as new claims 28, 29 and 30, respectively, which include the recitations of claim 1 and all of the intervening claims from which claims 10, 12 and 14 depend.

To reduce the issues under consideration, claims 1-3, 6-17 and 21-27 have been canceled. Accordingly, the only rejected claims that remain pending are claims 18-20. Claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form, to include the subject matter of base claim 1 and each of the intervening claims from which it depends.

Claim 18 recites a camera that automatically determines and takes a plurality of images of an object when a calculated exposure time is too long, e.g. it could result in camera shake. Original claim 17, which has now been incorporated into claim 18, recited that when the image data is stored in the memory, it is compressed. Claim 18 further recites that at least one of the compression ratio of the image data, the method of data compression and the resolution of the image is changed "corresponding to the automatically determined number of image taking operations." In rejecting claim 18, the Office Action refers to the Nakagawa patent, particularly at column 17, line 67 to column 18, line 6. This portion of the patent states that an

optimum *amount* of code data is calculated, in accordance with the number of photographing images that is *manually* set by the user. However, it does not state that any one of the compression *ratio* of the image data, the *method* of data compression or the *resolution* of the image is changed, in accordance with an automatically determined number of image taking operations. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that the Nakagawa patent does not suggest the subject matter of claim 18, even when considered in light of the three other references cited in the rejection of this claim. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 18 is respectfully requested.

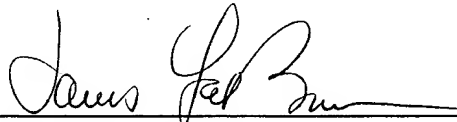
Claim 19 recites a camera system having a memory region for temporally storing data. The camera also has a controller "for compressing image data *except a standard image data* and for memorizing the compressed image data into the memory region." The rejection of claim 19 refers to the Nakagawa patent, discussed above, and alleges that it would be obvious to adjust a compression ratio in the Kodama reference based on the number of images taken. However, the rejection does not address the above-noted feature of claim 19, in which image data *other than* standard image data is compressed and stored, without compressing the standard image data. Applicants respectfully submit that this claimed subject matter is not suggested by the teachings of either the Kodama or Nakagawa patents, whether considered individually or in combination. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 19, and dependent claim 20, is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are patentably distinct from the cited references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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